

REMARKS

The Final Rejection of June 7, 2006, and the Advisory Action of August 25 have been carefully reviewed and this response addresses the concerns stated in the Final Rejection and Advisory Action.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7, 16-18, 24, 28, 31, and 32 are currently pending in the application.

Claim 8-15, 19-23, 25-27, and 29 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 4, 16-18, 24, and 28 have been amended.

Claim 32 has been added.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich, United States Patent Number 6,101,483, issued on August 8, 2000 (Petrovich) in view of Treyz et al., United States Patent Number 6,587, 835, filed on February 9, 2000, issued on July 1, 2003 (Treyz). Applicant respectfully points out that Treyz issued 1½ years after the filing date of Applicant's application, January 4, 2002. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to swear behind Treyz under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich in view of Treyz as applied to claim 4, and in further view of Ruppert et al., United States Patent Number 5,424,524, issued on June 13, 1995 (Ruppert).

Claims 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich in view of Treyz as applied to claim 1 and further in view of WO 01/20526, priority date September 15, 1999, published on March 22, 2001 (WO '526). Applicant respectfully points out that WO '526 was published within a year of the filing date of Applicant's application, January 4, 2002. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to swear behind WO '526 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich in view of Treyz as applied to claim 4, and in further view of Shaw, United States Patent Number 6,568,596, filed on October 2, 2000, issued on May 27, 2003 (Shaw). Applicant respectfully points out that Shaw issued almost 1½ years after the filing date of Applicant's application, January 4, 2002. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to swear behind Shaw under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131.

Claims 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich in view of Treyz as applied to claim 1, and in further view of Kawan, United States Patent Number 6,102,049, issued on January 4, 2000 (Kawan).

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich in view of WO '526 and Ruppert.

Claims 21 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich in view of Kawan.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Petrovich in view of Treyz and Klughart, United States Patent Number 5,025,486, issued on June 18, 1991 (Klughart).

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Petrovich in view of Treyz, and in further view of Ginter, United States Patent Number 5,915,019, issued on June 22, 1999 (Ginter).

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended. Independent claim 32 has been added. All other independent claims have been cancelled.

It is submitted that claims independent claims 1, 18, and 32 are not made obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 by Petrovich in view of Treyz, Ruppert, WO '526, Shaw, Kawan, or Klughart,

and that dependent claims 2-7, 16-17, 24, 28, and 31 are patentable at least because of their dependence upon patentable independent claims 1 and 18.

III. CONCLUSION

It is submitted that claims 1-7, 16-18, 24, 28, 31, and 32 are now in condition for allowance.

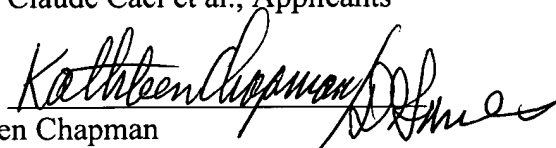
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and objections and find claims 1-7, 16-18, 24, 28, 31, and 32 allowable for the reasons stated above, and further respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Although no additional fees are anticipated, Applicants herein authorize the Commissioner for Patents to charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2410, Order No. 12078-129.

The following information is presented in the event that a call may be deemed desirable by the Examiner: KATHLEEN CHAPMAN (617) 345-3210.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Claude Caci et al., Applicants

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